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EDITORIAL COMMENT

LAYING THE CORNERSTONE OF THE AMERICAN NURSES' MEMORIAL

The Nurses' Memorial Fund has at last achieved its mission, for on June fifth, there was laid, at Talence, Bordeaux, France, the corner stone of the Memorial Building which will house the Florence Nightingale School. A group of interested Americans was present, more than one hundred in number, among them being Rear Admiral Thomas P. Magruder, and a detachment of bluejackets from the destroyer, *Childs*, representing the U. S. Navy; Dr. Kendall Emerson, medical director of the American Red Cross and Mrs. Emerson; Mrs. Mary Breckenridge and Evelyn Walker, representing the American Committee for Devastated France; Helen Scott Hay and Mary S. Gardner, representing the Nursing Service of the American Red Cross. Among the French people present were the mayor of Talence, the secretary-general of the prefecture, other officials and trustees, students and graduates of the school and, most revered of all, Dr. Anna Hamilton, whose twenty years of work for this school have thus been rewarded.

The exercises were in charge of Rear Admiral Magruder, as was fitting, for the hospital was originally founded for the especial benefit of the many sailors from all nations who throng Bordeaux. The corner stone was laid by Helen Scott Hay, representing Miss Noyes, president of the American Nurses' Association. In her short address, Miss Hay told how the fund for this memorial building had been raised by multitudes of small contributions from American nurses, with the help also of some of their friends, in honor of the 278 American nurses who gave their lives during the world war. The box placed in the corner stone contains the names of these nurses and also a copy of the charter of the school, embodying the terms of the original gift. Miss Hay read an address which had been prepared for the occasion by Miss Noyes at the request of the hospital trustees:

To the graduates of the Florence Nightingale School in Bordeaux and the students in course of preparation, the nurses of America send greetings. That

a new building, the gift of American nurses, should house this school as a memorial to the nurses who died in line of duty during the great war, is a fitting recognition of the purpose and achievements already attained by this hospital. Tribute also seems fitting on this occasion to Dr. Hamilton, whose indefatigable labors and unselfish zeal have so materially facilitated this enterprise and to the trustees for their unfailing interest in and sympathy with the ideals of the school. It is gratifying to all those whose interests today are centered in the great theme of modern nursing no less than it would have been to those whom this place will memorialize to know that here exists one of your country's most worthy institutions and one best suited to carry on the life work and standards of Florence Nightingale. Her spirit has already influenced thousands of young women to enter schools of nursing in the past. Doubtless it will be no less potent in the future in inspiring the womanhood of France to follow in her footsteps. Here will be re-pledged and re-consecrated in the days to come the same exalted purposes that animated thousands of American nurses to enlist for the world war, a very large proportion of them ministering on the battle fields of France to the friends and kindred of those now gathered here. Here the daughters of those who fell for fatherland may carry on the heroic spirit of those martyrs as they enlist for the lifelong warfare against man's most insidious foes, disease and ignorance.

In no better way may a young woman prove her patriotism than by preparing in a school of nursing for this constructive service. Perhaps it is not too much to say that conditions following the great war are more urgent than those co-existent with the world strife, for when the late Sir William Osler declared that the war would last for thirty years he had in mind, not only the carnage of the battle, but the aftermath of war scourging humanity and the childhood of the world with poverty, misery and death.

I, therefore, urge upon the young women of France the sacred obligation of preparing themselves for this mission that they may minister to their suffering countrymen, safeguard the generations still unborn and immortalize the profession of which Florence Nightingale is the patron saint. No name in Christendom is more revered than hers. In the nursing profession that reverence shows itself by a personal devotion that counts all gains as loss unless they contribute to the fulfillment of the aspirations of their great leader. Well may they place her portrait on the walls of their nurses' homes. Well may they treasure her words of counsel and long in some measure to be worthy of her high ideals; for her absolute devotion to their interests knew no bounds. Hers was no sentimental interest. She had created for them a profession but she demanded of them hard work and high standards, work done from pure, disinterested motives, faithful above all to the welfare of their patients.

Never has the need of recruits in such a service been so great as today, and today, in the dedication of this building to the Florence Nightingale School, France may read a prophecy of a new dispensation of nursing service and a long step onward in the world's processional toward the altar consecrated to the healing of the nations.

A pleasant account of the day is contained in a letter from Mary S. Gardner:

The laying of the corner stone was a great success, and really quite an impressive function. We went down on the night train and were entertained by some French people and at 2.30 went out to Bagatelle. It was a beautiful day,

which of course added greatly to everyone's comfort and pleasure. Tea was served first on the lawn and then the real ceremony began. Of course there was a large predominance of men speakers, but the important feature was Miss Hay's actual laying of the stone, the reading of Miss Noyes' address, which was extremely appropriate, and her own (Miss Hay's) few added words,—direct and to the point. Miss Hay's remarks and her rendition of Miss Noyes' speech were given both in French and in English. "Taps" followed immediately upon the laying of the corner stone and was most impressive. The French had supplied a military band of sixty pieces while Admiral Magruder had a number of officers and a crew from one of the destroyers. After the ceremony, which lasted three hours, approximately, we wandered about the grounds until supper was served on the terrace, at about 8 o'clock. Then the nurses of the hospital gave a delightful little entertainment on the lawn,—tableaux, dancing and singing, after which we returned home. I talked with a great many French people during the afternoon and evening and it seems very obvious that they understand fully the significance of the gift and what it is really meant to do.

THE EASTERN COUNCIL OF NURSING EDUCATION

We are in receipt of the announcement sent out by the Eastern Council of Nursing Education to young women who might consider nursing as a profession. In four pages there are clearly set forth the need of recruits, the opportunity for service awaiting them, the preliminary requirements, suggested subjects for study by high school students intending to take up nursing, and the names and address of the Executive Committee of the Council. Enclosed are six one-page leaflets, each giving pictures and outstanding facts regarding one of the schools represented.

The whole can be read in a few minutes,—it is interesting, attractive, and gives a good picture of training school life in the best known schools of New York City.

VACATIONS

We hope that every nurse who is a graduate and every nurse student will have a good vacation this summer,—one that will give her bodily rest and refreshment, and also a complete change of thought. If she can manage to procure such a respite from her usual daily round, she will be better able to carry her duties through the coming year and she will also, and this is almost more important, see them with a fresh point of view. The little things that have become so irritating and the big ones that have grown to be burdens will resolve themselves into problems which it is interesting to attack and solve, if only one can lay them aside for a time.

Work is really the best fun there is. Anyone who is in good health and who is not hopelessly indolent would rather work than not,—but the minute it becomes stale or drags, we may know that a

change is what we need and should procure, if possible. The work will be done all the better for it, later.

There are some unfortunate persons so placed that a real vacation cannot be managed. These should make the most of small outings. Parks, picnics, a boat ride, a swimming pool, a change of sleeping quarters,—to a porch, if possible,—all these will help a little to give fresh vigor, though they can never have the same renewing effect as comes with a complete laying down of tasks for a week or two. Above all things, let us try to cultivate quiet minds. That alone would be a rest for some worrying souls. Let us help each other to rest,—overlook some of the small faults, be blind to some lapses, try to appreciate the burden of our superiors, and lend an unexpected helping hand,—all these things make summer heat more bearable.

THE ARMY SCHOOL OF NURSING

The commencement exercises of the Army School of Nursing, described in our news columns, mark the end of the period of testing of the school and its entrance into our list of regularly established training schools of high standing. Those who attended the convention of the American Nurses' Association at Cleveland in 1918, will remember the anxious discussions as to whether the Army School was needed and whether it could be established. The School was finally started, through the indefatigable efforts of Miss Goodrich, and it served the need for which it was founded, that of providing a larger number of nurses for the care of soldiers in our Army hospitals, here. Affiliations were arranged which rounded out the training, and an exceptional class of young women is now ready to take its part in our general nursing activities. The school will be continued at Washington, in the east, and at the Presidio, in the west.

CORRECTIONS

We are exceedingly sorry that a printer's error in the Red Cross Department of the June JOURNAL escaped our notice in proof reading. The quotation from Dr. Lyon, on page 631, should have ended with the words "the most striking proof of this statement." This was indicated in the copy, but the printer continued in fine type the words of Miss Noyes which followed.

In the July JOURNAL, in the Letter Department, a letter headed Athletics in the Army School of Nursing should have been signed by the initials of a student in the Army School, "B. M. P.," rather than by those of the sender. This was not made clear in the manuscript as submitted to us.